

acquisition, master plan design, engineering, and construction costs. I also understand that the funding provided is only a piece of the total funding required for this project and anticipated allocations may change.

Project Name: Community Redevelopment and Restoration, Lower Fairview.

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development—Economic Development Initiatives.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Nehemiah Project.

Address of Requesting Entity: 800 Valley View Boulevard, Altoona, PA 16602.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$71,250 for redevelopment of buildings in the downtown Lower Fairview area of Altoona, Pennsylvania.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to aid in the redevelopment of buildings in the Lower Fairview area of Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Specifically, I understand the project is centered on the rehabilitation of an abandoned and condemned church building that used to serve as a safe haven for those in need. Once restored, the facility will be home to a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of area residents and provide tools to put them in a position to succeed in the future.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for a variety of acquisition and construction needs. I also understand that the funding provided is only a piece of the total funding required for this project and anticipated allocations may change.

RECOGNIZING BETH LEES AS THE 2010 SANTA ROSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Beth Lees, Santa Rosa County's 2010 Teacher of the Year.

From an early age, Ms. Lees has expressed a passion and talent for teaching. Inspired by the work of her mother, also a teacher, Ms. Lees would work on the blackboard and create curriculum in the imaginary games of "school" she played as a child. This early interest blossomed into an enduring devotion to the profession of teaching and to helping children realize their intellectual potential.

Ms. Lees began her teaching career at Troy University, where she earned a B.A. in elementary education and a master's of science in Education. After graduating, she began teaching third grade and spent the next 12 years teaching third, fourth, and fifth grade. Her education and early experiences have resonated in her current teaching style. Ms. Lees is known for her exciting curriculum and students and teachers often remark on her ability to make the material fun and dynamic. Her enthusiasm is contagious and the structure she provides her students, especially in the way of reading comprehension, is vital to their long-term academic success.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an honor and is evidence of Ms. Lees's exceptional ca-

pabilities as an educator. Beyond the title lies Ms. Lees's dedication and devotion, to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Lees's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in northwest Florida, and the First District of Florida is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Beth Lees on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa School District.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BENITA DURAN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Ms. SOLIS of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Benita Duran, a dedicated, hard working woman whom I am very fortunate to have had on my staff for more than eight years.

Benita joined my staff in November 2000 while I was serving as a member of the California State Senate. She stayed with me during my transition into service as a Member of Congress and has been my Deputy District Director since 2004.

During her time in my office, Benita demonstrated that she is a hard working individual committed to advancing the public interest. She demonstrated her passion for issues affecting underserved communities and the lives of working families daily in her work. True to her roots, the residents of El Sereno were first and foremost in her heart and mind.

Benita is strongly committed to our nation's servicemen and women, veterans and their families. She worked tirelessly to ensure that countless numbers of veterans received the medals and recognition they earned, and stood by the families of who lost their loved ones in service to our nation.

Benita was equally committed to helping all residents resolve issues which required Federal assistance. She paid personal attention to each case, whether it was helping resolve an IRS issue to helping people achieve the American Dream of securing their citizenship.

As my Deputy District Director, Benita managed my two district offices and staff in a mature, thoughtful, organized manner. Through her words and actions, Benita trained, mentored and inspired my staff to constantly challenge themselves to meet new goals while helping them along the way. I knew Benita could be counted on to deliver. I am grateful to have had her assist me in this capacity while my work kept me in Washington, DC.

Benita's passion, dedication and commitment to public service will be sorely missed. I am confident she will continue to excel in all future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing "The National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009," which coordinates national research and development efforts on water and provides a clear path forward to ensure adequate water supplies for generations to come.

In the United States, over 50,000 water utilities withdraw approximately 40 billion gallons per day of water from the Nation's resources to supply water for domestic consumption, industry, and other uses. When severe water shortages occur, the economic effect can be substantial. According to a 2000 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, eight water shortages from drought or heat waves each resulted in \$1 billion or more in monetary losses over the past 20 years.

Water is essential to everything we do, and there is no substitute for it. Many Americans are unaware how stressed our water supplies have become. This situation will continue to be exacerbated by increases in population and energy demand and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change. In order to meet the water demands of the future, it is essential that we have the tools needed to utilize water resources efficiently and to maintain the quality of our water supplies. Sound water management is essential if we are to meet society's water needs for industry, agriculture, recreation, and power.

An adequate supply of treated water is integral to many industries, including agriculture and food processing, beverages, power generation, paper production, manufacturing, and mineral extraction. Water shortages can negatively affect companies and entire industries and reduce job creation and retention. Current industry trajectories, population growth, and dwindling water supplies all point to increased water shortages. Increased water demand will come with increased costs to all businesses, industries, and municipalities which rely on the same water resources. The Association of California Water Agencies reported in April 2008 that California is now losing income and jobs due to the State's water supply crisis.

If we are to meet the water crises of the future, we need an effective research and development effort that provides tools and information to manage our water resources effectively. Coordination of the 20 Federal agencies responsible for water programs is a logical place to start. The 2004 National Academies Report on Federal Water Research stated that the United States is not getting its money's worth on water resources research because of a lack of coordination.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on the Bush Administration's effort to coordinate Federal research on water resources by establishing an interagency committee—the Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science and Technology Council. The bill codifies this subcommittee and provides it explicit Congressional authorization.